

Administrative Office of the Courts

Supreme Court of New Mexico

Arthur W. Pepin, Director



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New Mexico Language Access Advisory Committee Minutes November 14, 2014

Members Present

Judge Darren Kugler, Co-Chair
Alex Araiza
Amy Lovekin
Anna Lujan
Arthur Pepin
Blanche Charles
Cataline Ybarra
Jesús Sifuentes
Magdalena Giron

Members Absent

Judge Nan Nash, Co-Chair
Barbara Creel
Barbara Shaffer
Justice Edward Chávez
Lisa Dignan

Guests

Armida Hernandez
Esther Poblet
Irene Groendyke
Laura Chavez
Maria Zendejas-Monsserat
Melissa Jamison
Naomi Todd-Reyes
Ramona Valdez
Richard Perales
Rose Marie de Leon

AOC Staff

Pam Sánchez
Aimee Rivera
Anabel Vela
Peggy Cadwell

1. Judge Kugler called the meeting to order at 9:20 a.m. and a quorum was established.
2. The agenda was approved unanimously as moved by Anna Lujan and seconded by Jesús Sifuentes.
3. The minutes of September 12, 2014 were approved unanimously as moved by Jesús Sifuentes and seconded by Magdalena Giron.
4. Qualifying Interpreters for Court-Ordered Services: This item was tabled until the May, 2015 meeting.
5. Follow-up on Web-based Scheduling and Invoicing Process: Pam Sánchez Pam projects that invoicing in Gridcheck won't probably happen until spring. Guests and LAAC members, who are interpreters, shared the following concerns and asked that invoicing be postponed until the online scheduling works better. Concerns include: notifications of open assignments are not received simultaneously by all interpreters; inadequate information is provided

about the assignment, information that is needed in order for the interpreter to make a decision to accept; information regarding multi-day assignments is not always clear; jobs are going to less qualified, though certified interpreters; interpreters are finding that they are working in different districts than they had before.

AOC Language Access Coordinators shared the following: there appears to be a decrease in number of interpreting requests at present, which will probably continue through the holidays; as coordinators assist courts to create "typical jobs," courts are more likely to provide additional information regarding pending assignments; interpreters should contact coordinators when additional information is required regarding assignments; all notifications are sent simultaneously, varying arrival times depend on outside factors related to internet provider, etc; coordinators make decisions regarding which interpreters receive job notifications based on a variety of factors including the nature of the assignment, skill level of the interpreters relative to the specific assignment, distance interpreter resides from the court.

All those who contributed to the discussion were thanked for sharing. AOC will continue to work with Gridcheck to address issues as they come up, but there are no plans to make any major changes at this time.

6. Follow-up on Interpreter Contract Issues: Artie Pepin
Mr. Pepin and LAAC members were presented with a three-page written memo from 28 "Independent Freelance Interpreters," 27 of whom are New Mexico Certified Court Interpreters and one individual who represented herself as certified, but is not. The memo addressed the following areas of concern: perceived travel time policy changes following the execution of the contract; redirection of interpreters during periods of guaranteed pay; technical problems with the functioning of the Gridcheck scheduling system. Other concerns noted were the increase in telephonic interpreter without appropriate training or equipment and that freelance interpreters were being treated like employees. Mr. Pepin acknowledged the interpreter concerns, noting that some of the issues raised have been, or are in the process of, being corrected. He indicated that he hopes to respond by the next LAAC meeting, January 9th, 2015 and underscored that no changes in procedures are expected during the remainder of the current fiscal year.
7. Membership Recommendations for 2105: An update on the recommendations made to the Supreme Court will be provided at the next meeting.
8. 2015 Meeting Schedule was presented. See attached.
9. Update from Literacy Challenges Workgroup: Pip Lustgarten reported on the progress of the new Literacy Challenges Working Group in Chair Lisa Dignan's absence. The group had its first meeting on November 5 and will be convened every two months, with the next meeting scheduled for January 13, 2015. The potential scope of the work could be overwhelmingly extensive, so Lisa and Pip decided to start the group off with a tangible short term project: creating a statewide scribing policy and proposing an exemption to the Rule that prohibits

clerks filling in forms on a client's behalf. As additional issues get raised by members, these issues will be organized into short, mid and long term projects/goals, or may be deemed to be outside the scope of this group.

10. Language Access Training for Attorneys: Tabled until January, 2014.
11. Update on Bench Card: Pam Sánchez reported that notes have been received back from the Supreme Court regarding the bench card. They will be passed along to the original work group.

Next Meeting: January 9, 2015, 9:00 a.m. – Noon
Third Floor Conference Center
Second Judicial District Court
400 Lomas NW
Albuquerque, NM